

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 8 are pending in this Application.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,353,735 (hereinafter Arai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,173,316 (hereinafter Sproule). The Office Action asserts that Arai discloses an instrument device having a cone-shaped reflecting dial 2 with scale marks, a pointer P pointing to the scale marks and provided in front of the dial, a light source B provided behind the dial and supplying light to the pointer to cause the pointer to emit light, and a cover 11 provided in front of the pointer, where a reflection member 7A is provided at a rotation center of the pointer. The Office Action also asserts that reflecting dial is illuminated with light emitted from the pointer.

Arai fails to disclose or suggest a reflection part provided on the dial or in the vicinity of the dial, which is illuminated with the light emitted from the pointer and this light is then reflected and scattered by the reflection member. In Fig. 17, Arai shows a hole 10a through which the beam B reaches and *passes through* the second reflection plate 8A (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 28-30). Further, the dial 2 of Arai is a flat plate. The dial is not cone-shaped, as required by dependent claim 6, or inclined towards the reflection member, as required by independent claim 4 (see, e.g., Fig. 14; col. 1, lines 18-19).

The Office Action acknowledges that Arai does not disclose that the scale marks and the pointer are visually confirmed through the cover. The Office Action relies on Sproule in an attempt to cure the deficiencies of Arai.

Turning to the prior art, Sproule shows a reflecting member 12 that is provided at a part of the cover 5. However, in Fig. 10 of Sproule, the light rays from the light source 9 are reflected from the reflecting member 12 found on the cover 5 to the scale 2 and to the end of the pointer 1, and not on the dial (col. 4, lines 30-35). Thus, Sproule fails to teach or suggest a

reflection part provided on the dial or in the vicinity of the dial. Arai and Sproule alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest, at a minimum, "a reflection part is provided on the dial and/or in the vicinity of the dial," as recited in independent claims 1-3 and "a reflection part is provided on the dial inclined toward the reflection member and/or in the vicinity of the dial," as recited in independent claim 4.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are solicited.

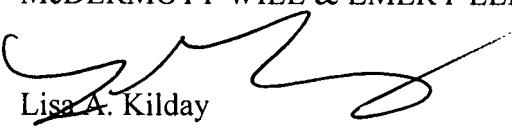
Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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